

# COURIER-JOURNAL

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PHOTO BY Terrance J. Brennan

Bishop Clark meets with task force members Sue Staropoli, Gertrude Curran, Nancy Giordano and Mary Remenicky.

## Sept. 19 Catechetical Sunday

### Bishop Clark Praises Religious Educators

Bishop Matthew H. Clark in a special letter, marking Catechetical Sunday, Sept. 19, had particular praise for diocesan religious educators.

"We celebrate with hope and thanksgiving those men and women who have answered their call by ministering to others as catechists," the bishop wrote. "Their faith life, personal abilities, skills and knowledge are the bases for the successful catechetical programs in our parish communities."

The theme for this year's Catechetical Sunday is "Welcoming the Lord," taken from the Gospel reading of the day.

The base of catechesis in the diocese is at the Office of Religious Education which provides the resources and support for religious programs.

Sister Mary Ann Binsack is the diocesan director of Religious Education. Other staffers are Maribeth Mancini, consultant for Adult Religious Education; Jim Mulcahy, consultant for Religious Education Personnel; Sister Mary Lynch, field consultant for the Southern Tier; and Father David Mura, director of Youth Retreats.

In Rochester, Joseph Weber, audiovisual librarian, and Charlotte Richardson make up the support staff. Mrs. Joan Teeter, secretary, manages the Southern Tier office.

Services include adult religious education resources, AV resources, Continuing Education for Religion Teachers, family education resources, mailing lists, personnel consultation, crisis intervention, negotiation, contracts, benefits, RCIA

My dear brothers and sisters,

Sunday, September 19th, we will observe Catechetical Sunday in our diocese, a day on which parish communities focus on one of its most important functions, the ministry of catechesis.

The theme for this year, "Welcoming the Lord," comes from the Gospel reading of the day. In it we are reminded of our baptismal call to "welcome the Lord" by welcoming his people and sharing the light of faith with them.

We celebrate with hope and thanksgiving those men and women who have answered their call by ministering to others as catechists. Their faith life, personal abilities, skills, and knowledge are the bases for the successful catechetical programs in our parish communities.

Please join with me in a prayer of gratitude for the many people throughout our diocese who dedicated their faith lives to this ministry. We ask God's blessings on them and all of us that we may continue to welcome the Lord by opening our hearts to God's Word and sharing it with others.

Your brother in Christ,

*Matthew H. Clark*

† Most Reverend Matthew H. Clark, D.D.,  
Bishop of Rochester

information and planning, special education resources, youth retreats and program consultation.

At the centers on Buffalo Road and in Elmira, resource rooms containing textbooks and sacramental preparation programs are available for anyone interested in what is being published in the field.

There are about 65 parishes with full-time religious education personnel and the number has been growing yearly, a reflection of the growing concern for total religious education programs which meet the needs of all age groups.

The diocesan Religious Education Department has been visiting as widely as possible parish staffs in charge of religious education

programs, to assess needs and to provide support services.

Among programs planned this Fall are more than 160 sessions of CERT, two Confirmation sharing days and two RCIA sharing sessions. The programs are presented throughout the diocese to attract as wide a participation as possible.

**Milestones  
For Mercy  
Sisters,  
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## Bishop Clark Urges Wide Discussion of 'Fire in the Thornbush'

It is my hope and intention that this Pastoral Letter will be carefully read throughout the diocese and that all our people will have the opportunity to engage in in-depth discussion of its contents over the coming year.

Bishop Matthew H. Clark in a letter to the people of the diocese has called for "in-depth discussion" and "serious reflection" of his Pastoral Letter "The Fire in the Thornbush, A Pastoral Letter on Women in the Church."

As with the Pastoral Letter, which was issued on the feast day of St. Catherine of Siena on April 29, Bishop Clark chose another auspicious and pertinent occasion for his new message to the people on the topic — Sept. 8, the Feast of the Nativity of Mary.

A task force has been formed on the Pastoral Letter with Sister Mary Sullivan as its chairperson. Bishop Clark met with the task force last Saturday morning at the Sisters of St. Joseph Motherhouse to discuss ways of encouraging and organizing discussion and study of the Pastoral Letter at parishes throughout the diocese.

A discussion booklet has been prepared on the subject and in its preface, Bishop Clark notes that it divides the Pastoral Letter into "12 discussion sessions and I strongly urge each parish and other community to hold all 12 discussion sessions."

He further declared, "The positive fruit which the Pastoral Letter can yield will

not occur unless all parochial and other groups commit ourselves to in-depth 'grass roots' reflection on the issues raised in the letter. This will take time and cannot be accomplished in a few brief discussion sessions."

The booklet was included in a packet sent to all parishes and priests in the diocese. The Pastoral Letter itself was included in the April 28 issues of the Courier-Journal and has since been reprinted in Spanish.

The agenda for the task force meeting Saturday included organizing discussion of the Pastoral Letter in the Diocesan Pastoral Council, the Priests Council and the Sisters Council in addition to every parish and community group in the diocese.

Sister Sullivan said that "faculty and students in Catholic high schools will be encouraged to incorporate study and discussion of 'The Fire in the Thornbush' in their religion courses."

Also being planned is a diocesan Prayer Service for Women some time during the coming year.

In her role as chairperson, Sister Sullivan will be assisted by co-chairpersons Sara

McLaughlin and Alice Pempel.

In addition to the Pastoral Letter's reflections on women in the Church, Sister Sullivan said, "Bishop Clark raises many broader questions that merit full diocesan attention: the role of the laity in Church affairs, the fullness of liturgical participation, the quality of preaching in the diocese, among others."

She added that the letter "invites all men and women of the diocese to deal openly and generously with the many issues affecting the place and contributions of women in the Church . . . it calls us all to reconciliation, conversion and reforming action."

In addition to Sister Sullivan, Mrs. McLaughlin and Dr. Pempel, the task force is composed of Mrs. Catherine Torma, Rochester; Ms. Rebecca Gifford, Washington, D.C.; Mrs. Olga de Samper, Rochester; Mrs. Sue Staropoli, Rochester; Mrs. Katherine Heiminger, Penfield; Msgr. George Cocuzzi, Rochester; Mrs. Gertrude Curran, Rochester; Msgr. William Shannon, Rochester; Father Joseph Hart, Webster; Sister Barbara Moore, RSM, Rochester;

Father Winfried M.  
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## Msgr. Naughton Dies; Was 79

Funeral rites were celebrated Sunday and Monday for Msgr. William J. Naughton, pastor emeritus of St. Anne's Church in Rochester, who died Sept. 10, 1982, at the age of 79.

The son of William and Emily Anderson Naughton attended Corpus Christi School and St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's seminaries. He was ordained June 11, 1927, by the apostolic delegate to the U.S., Archbishop Fumasoni-Biondi.

His first assignment was as assistant pastor of Holy

Rosary Church in Rochester. Five years later, he was named professor and procurator at St. Bernard's Seminary. He assisted on Sundays at Holy Rosary throughout his time of appointment at the seminary.

He was named pastor of St. Peter and Paul Church, Elmira, in 1945.

Father Naughton's years in Elmira were marked by unusual activity. In 1946, the flood-crested Chemung River burst its dikes and surged muddy waters over great areas of the city. Pews of the church



MSGR. NAUGHTON were pounded and the school, rectory and convent were inundated.

The pastor and his  
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